

The Colored American

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A National Negro Newspaper

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INVARIABLY IN ADVANCE.

Subscriptions may be sent by post office money order, express or registered letter. All communications for publication should be accompanied with the name of the writer, not necessarily for publication but as a guarantee of good faith.

We solicit news, contributions, opinions and in fact all matters affecting the race. We will not pay for matter, however unless it is ordered by us. All matter intended for publication must reach this office by Wednesday of each week to insure insertion in the current issue.

Agents are wanted everywhere. Send for instructions.

ADVERTISING RATES.

Reading notices 50 cents per line. Display advertisements, \$2 per square inch per insertion. Discounts made on large contracts. Entered at the Post-office as second-class matter.

All letters, communications, and business matters should be addressed to

THE COLORED AMERICAN,

EDWARD E. COOPER, MANAGER

459 C Street Northwest.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

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SATURDAY, JANUARY 10 1903.

NEGRO JOURNALS.

Why Should They Be Supported.

Whatever hope there was that the color line could be wiped out, so that there would be no need of colored churches, colored fraternal organizations, and colored journals, has wholly faded away. There is a visible and tangible line based upon color and previous conditions, which separates the two races in this country. This is seen and felt along every avenue of effort.

There are certain features of news concerning colored people, which any white journal will publish in their choice columns, under flaring head lines. Has a colored man been charged with the commission of some heinous offense? Has he done something which places him or those with whom he is identified at a disadvantage? All such matters are sought and welcomed to the showy columns of white journals.

But, on the contrary, if a colored person has performed an act which entitles him to credit, or rebounds to the glory of his race, this would find conspicuous place in but precious few white journals; some would consign it to their obscure columns, while the large majority would reject it altogether.

The remarkable progress made by the colored race since emancipation is largely due to its journals. They have sought and published the creditable things said and done by the race or its representatives. In this way the noble dead which otherwise would have "blushed unseen and wasted their sweetness on the desert air," have found prominent place in the columns of the newspapers, owned, edited and published by colored men, thereby enabling us to see ourselves in the most favorable light, and relatively offsetting the ill effects of the white journals that lose no opportunity, real or imaginary, to present us to the reading public in a most ignoble light.

Decent, loyal Negro journals are a necessity. They are beacon-lights in the tower of progress, warning of approaching danger, encouraging to laudable effort, blessing and uplifting the race.

"Why should Negro Journals be supported?" is sufficiently answered in the

foregoing. But, "Why are they not supported?" is past finding out.

Many a colored editor to-day is feeding on the husks of life, simply that he may serve to his race from week to week a decent, enlightening, elevating newspaper. He prefers thus to be of real service to his race, rather than to resort to the sensational publication of matters of doubtful propriety, for his personal gain, but to the ineffable loss of the race. It therefore behooves every colored man and woman to support decent colored journalism by cash subscriptions. This done a colored daily would soon be born to live; and then the daily outrages against the race would cease.

As humiliating as it may be, it is nevertheless absolutely true, that the Negro press is not supported by the people in whose interest it is published. The so-called intelligent reading element among us will not support their race journals by subscribing or paying for them. The illiterate class among us take no practical interest in newspapers, not being able to read them.

The middle classes of our people, therefore, furnish the bone and sinew of support to our journals. Hence, those who should be the followers of the so-called intelligent element are really its unfollowed leaders.

The appointment of gallant young colored men of the David J. Gilmer type will go farther than any other method toward Americanizing and winning the confidence of the Filipinos. They want to see how we treat the dark-skinned citizens we have, before they irrevocably cast their lot with this country.

THE NEW YEAR FOR US.

The year 1903 began auspiciously for us and for the country at large. The 40th anniversary of the issuance of the proclamation of emancipation by the immortal Lincoln was grandly celebrated by public meetings held in most of the large cities and a few small ones, on the first.

The President of the United States has declared that unreasoning prejudice against color shall receive no consideration by his administration. His course in the case of Mrs. Minnie M. Cox, postmistress at Indianola, Miss., speaks louder than words. Mrs. Cox had filled the office of postmistress at Indianola most acceptably for about six years. She was compelled to resign her position almost at the muzzle of the gun. Our great and good President Roosevelt has laid her resignation on the table, and ordered the post office at Indianola to be closed and remain closed until the lawless element there accept her as postmistress, meanwhile directing that all mail addressed to Indianola be sent to Greenville, Miss. Mrs. Cox is endorsed by some of the leading democrats of her community, the democratic state Senators there being the sureties on her bond. Notwithstanding this the ruffianly element there have practically taken the post office away from her. The President invokes the law of God himself when he makes the whole community suffer for the sins which that community permits a prejudiced element to perpetrate. Let the Negro continue to prove himself worthy and capable and there will soon be as many Roosevelts as there are sensible whites, made so by our President.

It surprises no one to hear that Senator Tillman purposes to fight the confirmation of Dr. Crum. Let it be remembered that there is a republican majority in the Senate, and we are not in the habit of looking to cantankerous democrats to sustain our judgment in the matter of whom we select for office.

SHALL WE EMMIGRATE?

As a race, no! Certain of our friends, the enemy, envy the era of good feeling engendered toward us by the impartial treatment of us by this administration. We can always tell when the obstacles placed in our way by our friends, the enemy, are being removed so that the colored man may break by, for then our friends, the enemy, immediately conjure up some wild-cat scheme of emigration or deportation, not necessarily for the purpose of effectuating anything of the

kind, but for the purpose of unsettling the Negro in his aspirations in this country. It is desired that he should forever remain a hewer of wood and a drawer of water; and whenever the possibilities of his escape from the peonage marked out for him brighten, the element which delight to disturb his condition come to the surface. This was the case under Harrison; it is the case under Roosevelt, but it will amount to nothing now as it did then. The Negro will do as his white brother in respect to emigration. Those of us who desire to emigrate to the Philippines or elsewhere will do so, but we will emigrate or be deported from here as a race about as quick as will the white race, and our friends, the enemy, might as well become reconciled to the inevitable.

CAPTAIN GILMER'S PROUD RECORD.

Elsewhere in this issue will be found the military record of Captain David J. Gilmer as it appears on the rolls at the War Department. This most excellent record has been kept from the readers of The Colored American for the reason that Captain Gilmer refused to allow us to have the document when we wrote him for it over a year ago, and we were unable to procure it from any other source at that time. We heard so much talk of Captain Gilmer's remarkable record in the Philippines through officers of the 48th and 49th regiments when they returned to this city from Manila that we became more than anxious to publish it. Knowing that our colored readers would be especially interested in such a fine showing by one of our race, as a captain in the United States Army, we wrote Captain Gilmer to furnish us as much of his record as he had in hand, to which he replied in part:

"I don't care for notoriety on account of my army record; nor do I want the people to think me brave, for I am no braver than any officer who served in the 48th and 49 regiments, or any other in the Philippines. And I am quite sure that some of the officers who served in the regiments named were my superiors, both as soldiers and as men of brains. Therefore, I must respectfully decline to give my consent for the publication of a military record that was made as a result of being thrown in the hot-bed of insurrection in the Philippines, while other officers who were more anxious to fight than I, could not get to the firing line. My record is at the War Department, and if the officials see fit to give it to you I have no objection."

Immediately after receiving this letter we went to the Record and Pension Division of the War Department, and made the proper inquiries, but were denied an opportunity to inspect the papers on file. Now it comes from the press that Senator Pritchard secured the information, and on account of this record it is said he asked President Roosevelt to reward the gallant young officer by giving him a position for life.

It should be remembered that after the muster of the colored regiments which were organized for the war in Cuba, the New York Tribune, if we are not mistaken, said Negro officers were a failure, and therefore could not command their own race as enlisted men of the army. We invite the Tribune and the military critics of the world to examine Captain Gilmer's record, and see if the generalship, strategy and military sagacity of this gallant colored American will bear out the prejudiced statement of the Tribune.

The trouble about the colored race is that our ability to do noble things is kept hidden from the world, and the criminal set and loud-talkers among the Negroes are placed constantly before the public. This condition of affairs should not be permitted to continue, to our eternal detriment. Whether Mr. Roosevelt will reward this rare generalship, courage and patriotism or not, remains to be seen. However, let us all cry, "Long Live North Carolina," for sending forth such a gallant son of our race, to demonstrate our ability as officers and men of war.

Nearly every colored lawyer in the city has one or more clients among the depositors of the Capital Savings Bank.

REFUSED \$20,000 CASH.

A Negro Oil Magnate Holds Valuable Stock for Better Results.—A Distinguished Board of Directors.

Geo. A. Weaver, one of the incorporators of The Wilgera Oil & Gas Co., the oil company recently incorporated under the laws of West Virginia for \$50,000, on the advice of his attorney



RALPH W. TYLER.

refused to accept \$20,000 cash for his holdings in the company. When it is considered that the company had just incorporated, and Weaver only held five thousand shares of the stock at the par value of \$2 per share, some idea of the immense possibilities of this company can be formed. The officers of the company are all colored men, they being: George A. Weaver, of Columbus, O., president; Wilbur F. Jones, of Col-



HON. GEORGE A. MYERS.

umbus, treasurer; R. W. Tyler, Columbus, secretary; George A. Myers, Cleveland, Prof. James McHenry Jones, president of the West Virginia Colored Institute and Grand Master of the Grand United Order of Odd Fellows, members of the Board of Directors. Weaver had a chance to make \$10,000 spot cash, clear above what his stock stands him, but on the advice of his attorney refused as he knows that the stock will bring him at least five times that amount.

The attack upon Dr. Booker T. Washington by "Prof." W. H. Ferris, on Tuesday evening, before Bethel Literary and Historical Association, has aroused much indignation among the friends of the Tuskegee "Wizard." Acting upon the suggestion made by many of the believers in the value of Dr. Washington's practical work and his sincere efforts to elevate the standard of the Negro, Mr. R. W. Thompson is preparing a full statement of the position of the famous educator, as a formal reply to the line of criticism advanced by Prof. Ferris and his Boston confederates.